IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A drum shredder for reducing material comprising

a housing;

a tapered cutting drum rotatably mounted within the housing, the tapered cutting drum having a cross-section with an outer diameter that is smaller than an outer diameter of another cross-section of said drum;

at least one cutting implement disposed about an outer surface of the tapered cutting drum;

an anvil adjacent to the tapered cutting drum;

a drive connected to the tapered cutting drum; and

a bellyband that partially wraps the tapered cutting drum.

2. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 1, wherein the anvil cooperates with the cutting drum to provide an acute cutting angle.

3. (Currently amended) ~~The drum shredder of claim 1,~~ A drum shredder for reducing material comprising

a housing;

a tapered cutting drum rotatably mounted within the housing, the tapered cutting drum having a cross-section with an outer diameter that is smaller than an outer diameter of another cross-section of said drum;

at least one cutting implement disposed about an outer surface of the tapered cutting drum;

an anvil adjacent to the tapered cutting drum;

a drive connected to the tapered cutting drum; and

a bellyband that partially wraps the tapered cutting drum,

wherein the cutting drum has two ends and a middle section, the cutting drum being tapered toward the middle section to form two regions, each region having at least one cutting implement.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 1, wherein the cutting drum is tapered toward both ends.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) The drum shredder of claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein each cutting implement has a~~ at least one pocket disposed in the surface of the tapered cutting drum, ~~and~~ each of said at least one pocket being associated with ~~it~~ each of said at least one cutting implement for carrying reduced material produced from said at least one cutting implement~~, each pocket being disposed in the surface of the tapered cutting drum~~.

10. (Previously presented) A drum shredder for chipping and discharging wood comprising:

a housing;

at least one tapered cutting drum rotatably supported in the housing, the tapered cutting drum having a cross-section with an outer diameter that is smaller than an outer diameter of another cross-section of said drum;

at least one cutting implement supported by the tapered cutting drum;

a bellyband at least partially wrapping the tapered cutting drum;

a transition in communication with the bellyband; and

a discharge port in communication with the transition.

11. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the transition has a non-linear rear wall.

12. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the transition has a multi-sided rear wall.

13. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the transition has a substantially v-shaped or substantially inverted v-shaped wall.

14. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the transition has a semi-circular wall.

15. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the transition has at least 5 sides.

16. (Original) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the bellyband has a substantially 'v-shaped' or substantially inverted 'v-shaped' wall.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously presented) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein each cutting implement has a pocket for carrying reduced material associated with it, each pocket being disposed in the surface of the tapered cutting drum.

20. (Previously presented) The drum shredder of claim 19, wherein the shape of the bellyband conforms with the shape of the tapered cutting drum.

21. (Previously presented) The drum shredder of claim 10, wherein the outer surface of the tapered cutting drum is tapered toward the middle of said drum.

22. (Previously presented) The drum shredder of claim 1, wherein the tapered cutting drum further includes an essentially solid outer surface.

23. (Previously presented) The drum shredder of claim 3, wherein the tapered cutting drum further includes an essentially solid outer surface.

24. (Currently amended) The drum shredder of claim 23, further comprising ~~wherein each cutting implement has a~~ at least one pocket disposed in the surface of the tapered cutting drum, each of said at least one pocket being associated with ~~it~~ each of said at least one cutting implement for carrying reduced material produced from said at least one cutting implement~~, each pocket being disposed in the essentially solid outer surface of the tapered cutting drum~~.

25. (Previously presented) The drum shredder of claim 23, wherein the bellyband wraps the tapered cutting drum at a substantially even distance away from said tapered cutting drum.

26. (Previously presented) The drum shredder of claim 3, wherein each cutting implement extends along at least 50% of each region.

27. (New) The drum shredder of claim 3, wherein the bellyband includes a multi-sided, and/or multi-angled wall that conforms to the tapered drum.